

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, CY, PGOV, GR

SUBJECT: DANGER SIGNALS IN PRESENT PHASE OF CYPRIOT CRISIS

1. AS I PUT TOGETHER ELEMENTS OF RECENTLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION, I BELIEVE WE NEED TO BE DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT CONTINUED FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE CEASEFIRE COULD LEAD TO A RIGHTIST COUP IN CYPRUS AND THE WEAKENING OF KARAMANLIS' POSITION WITH THE MILITARY. THERE IS EVIDENCE THE GREEK MILITARY ARE BECOMING DISILLUSIONED WITH THE U.S. ROLE IN THE CYPRUS CRISIS, FEELING WE HAVE NOT PLAYED STRAIGHT WITH THEM. IN ADDITION, GENERAL IOANNIDES, STILL SITTING AT HIS DESK IN THE GREEK PENTAGON, HAS STATED GREEK MILITARY MAY TAKE OVER AGAIN AND IF THEY DO HE WILL NOT BE LEADER, BUT THOSE WHO WILL BE HOSTILE BOTH TO THE TURKS AND THE U.S., AND PRESUMABLY NATO. FINALLY, GENERAL BONANOS HAS EXPRESSED THE VIEW THE SITUATION "EXTREMELY SERIOUS" AND GREEK MILITARY MUST STAND BY, PRESUMABLY FOR THE WORST EVENTUALITIES. MILITARY INEVITABLY LIKELY TO BE QUITE UNEASY WITH THE RETURN OF HOSTILE EXILED ELEMENTS, AS WELL AS THE REVIVAL OF LEFTIST AND PRO-COMMUNIST PRESS AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF LEFT GENERALLY.

2. I REALIZE HOW DIFFICULT IT MUST BE TO RECONCILE SATISFACTORILY ALL OF OUR INTERESTS IN THIS CRISIS, BUT I DO WANT TO UNDERLINE THE DANGEROUS

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SITUATION IN WHICH WE NOW FIND OURSELVES. I WOULD ALSO

LIKE TO REPEAT MY VIEW THAT WE MUST CONTINUE TO KEEP THE
MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR GETTING OUT OF THIS CRISIS ON
THE LONDON-ZURICH SIGNATORIES, PARTICULARLY THE BRITISH
WHO HAVE MUCH AT STAKE ON HOW THIS CRISIS COMES OUT,
WHILE FULLY PROTECTING OUR OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS.
THE DECLARATION AGREED AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE
FOREIGN MINISTERS OF GREECE, TURKEY AND THE UK, WHICH
ITS CAREFULLY DRAFTED IMPLIED REFERENCE TO THE LONDON-ZURICH
AGREEMENTS, INDICATES AN APPROPRIATE FRAMEWORK.
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